

THE CARRIER

Volume XLVIII Number 3

www.mdarc.org

March 2000

MDARC

March Meeting
Friday March 17
7:30 PM

Program
To be announced

Our Savior's Lutheran Church
1035 Carol Lane
Lafayette CA

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Magic on the Top of the Hill

By Greg Estep, KE6VTA

When I first moved to the Bay Area there used to be a radio commercial that mentioned the Top of the Hill Daly City. Well, compared to that our voice repeaters are truly Top of the Hill. Mt. Diablo overlooks the largest population in North America and our repeaters are there. Because of their strategic location, W6CX can be heard down to Mount Lassen and up to Mount Shasta. To the east it provides coverage to the Sacramento area. I haven't heard any signal reports on how far west we can be heard.

These repeaters are kept functioning by members of the Rocky Ridge Repeater Committee. This group deserves our thanks. The Control Operators are also very involved in making sure that our repeaters are available for all to use. We offer an open repeater to all licensed amateurs in this area. You don't need to be a member of MDARC or a Rocky Ridge Supporter to use the repeaters, but I would like to give you some reasons to upgrade your membership to a Rocky Ridge Supporter. You can do that at any time. Just contact Sam Lipson to upgrade. Sam's email is ko6jr@arri.net.

1. You will help us build a better Repeater system.
2. You will get the codes to allow you to place telephone calls using the system.
3. It will help balance the budget so MDARC doesn't have to raise rates.
4. You will get an autodial slot that will allow you to quickly dial one number.
5. You will get a * next to your name in the roster.

73, Greg

MDARC Auction

May 19, 2000

The Club will hold its annual auction May 19. Ham gear and related equipment are welcome. Doors open at 6:00 PM, auction begins 7:00 PM. The location will be 1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette. Dennis Fuller KC6QHH will preside over the auction. This is a great opportunity to clean out the "shack" or to search for bargains. These events are always a lot of fun. I hope to see you there.

**John Schulze, KR6CR
Auction Chair**

MDARC General Meeting Minutes, Feb 18, 2000

The meeting was called to order by President Greg Estep, KE6VTA, at 7:30 p.m.

Lou Norberg, AD6BC, reminded the group that PARG runs a cw net daily at 0900 hrs on 7.045mhz and at 2100 hrs on 3.545mhz. Net control responds at the speed of the check -in.

The annual Baker to Vegas Law Enforcement race is in the planning stages. Dates are April 15-16 weekend.

Dick Schulze, AA6DL, standing in for Sam Lipson, KO6JR, announced the current membership total was 316, with 179 of those Rocky Ridge supporters. He also announced new members, who were: Jeff Cathrow, KF6GYM, Reg Driscoll, WA6ZAP, Bill Wright, KA0CZW, John Anslow, WA6DPJ, and Ron Luttinger, K6XC.

George Roush, WB6OFH, announced that the new club directories were available for pick up at the meetings. Directories will not be mailed.

Marie, KF6GLV, provided the Treasurer's report.

Pete Harris, KE6ZIW, announced the public service events.

John Schulze, KR6CR, listed the drawing prizes.

Terry Matzkin, KE6WRE, noted the next Pacificon

meeting was at 0800 hrs Saturday.

Jim Brunk, N6BHX, displayed a new power supply for the ATV repeater. He discussed the use of the repeaters and encouraged members to use them frequently.

George, WB6OFH, and Tracey Schwartz, KE6TOT, reminded all about the picnic in June/July. Dates will be finalized shortly.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m. for further activities.

At 8:00 Bill Kinsey, KF6HAY, a Coast Guard Auxiliary Communications Officer from Flotilla 57, presented an overview of the Auxiliary's radio activities and other opportunities in the CGA. He was accompanied by Don Kallansrud, KA5CEY.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

John, KR6CR, presided over the drawing.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Dickey, N6JOX, Secretary

Grandfathered Technicians

Proof of License On Or Prior to March 21, 1987

Holders of a Technician Class License on or prior to March 21, 1997 will receive credit for the Five Word Per Minute Morse Code requirement when the new Amateur License Restructuring going into effect on April 15, 2000. Proof of license on or before March 21, 1987 is provided under the ARRL VEC Program by one of the following methods:

(1.) A copy of the Technician Class license dated on or before March 21, 1987.

(2.) A copy from the page of the Amateur Radio Callbook for 1987 or earlier listing the name and call sign and address as of the date of the entry in the Callbook.

(3.) A copy of the CSC (Certificate of Successful Completion) for the Technician Class license dated March 21, 1987 or earlier.

(4.) One may obtain confirmation of the date of a Technician Classed license from the FCC in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. (See details below)

(5.) One may obtain confirmation on the Internet from

www.qrz.com using a print out from the old 1993 QRZ Database that shows a date for a Technician Class license on or before March 21, 1987. [The QRZ Website also has posted an article how to search for license information if you are not listed in the 1993 database — the first QRZ database published.]

(6.) One may obtain a copy of the appropriate page from the Amateur Radio Callbook by writing, faxing or e-mailing the publisher of the Amateur Radio Call bulk (see details below)

TO OBTAIN CONFIRMATION FROM THE FCC the FCC will confirm the date of a Technician Class license by providing them with: (1.) Call Sign when issued, (2.) Date of Application [an approximation will do], (3.) Location where the examination was taken [to the extent that the information is available], (4.) Address at the time license was issued, and (5.) Current Call Sign. I a fax a request to beat FCC that 717388 to 696 or one may write to:

Federal Communications Commission
1207 Fairfield Road
Gettysburg, Pennsylvania 1725
Attention Amateur Service

TO OBTAIN CONFIRMATION FROM THE RADIO AMATEUR CALLBOOK The Radio Amateur Callbook will provide a copy of the Callbook listing of the Technician Class license plus a Certificate confirming the date of license. The required information includes (1.) Old and New Call Signs, (2.) Address at the time that the Technician License was issued, and (3.) Current Mailing Address. One may fax a request to (888) 905-2966, e-mail a request to:

103424.2142@compuserve.com

or write to:

Radio Amateur Callbook
575 Prospect Street
Lakewood, New Jersey 08701

California Senate Bill SB 1714

Through the auspices of Mike Mitchell, W6RW, the following bill has been introduced in the California State Senate. It will only be enacted if there is vigorous support by the amateur community. Vigorous support means letters and telephone calls to your State Senator

and Assembly Member asking them to support the bill and explaining why you feel that way.

State Senator Rainey was, of course, Sheriff of Contra Costa County and should be familiar with the Sheriff's Amateur Radio Group. On the one hand it ought to be easy to persuade him of the value of Amateur Radio in emergency response. On the other hand the League of California Cities is going to be up in arms about the Bill.

The various Assembly members in this area are unlikely to know much about Amateur Radio. They need to learn two things: how many of us (who vote) there are and what we do for the community.

You may follow the progress of this bill by going to <http://www.leginfo.ca.gov> and following the links to "subscribe" to the bill by number. You will then receive email notice whenever any action takes place. Letters to committees as well as to your own representatives are in order.

73 de K6HS
Harry Styron
Volunteer Counsel Coordinator
ARRL Pacific Division

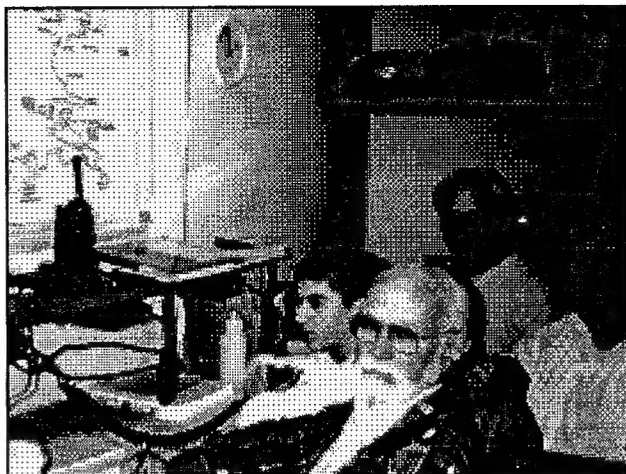
THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DO
ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. Section 65850.3 is added to the Government Code, to read: 65850.3. (a) Any ordinance enacted by the legislative body of any city or county regulating the placement, screening, or height of antennas shall reasonably accommodate amateur radio antennas and shall impose the minimum regulation necessary to accomplish the legitimate purpose of the city or county. (b) In a city or county having a population density of 120 persons or less per square mile according to the 1990 United States census, no ordinance shall do either of the following: (1) Restrict amateur radio antenna height to less than 200 feet above ground level as permitted by the Federal Communications Commission. (2) Restrict the number of support structures. (c) In a city or county having a population density of more than 120 persons per square mile according to the 1990 United States census, no ordinance shall do either of the following: (1) Restrict amateur radio antenna height to less than 75 feet above ground level. (2) Restrict the number of support structures. (d) Reasonable and customary engineering practices shall be followed in the erection of amateur radio antennas. (e) This section shall not preclude a city or county, by ordinance, from regulating amateur radio antennas with regard to reasonable requirements relating to the use of screening, setback, and placement, and health and safety requirements.

Mt. Diablo Challenge Bike Ride

Many would call it impossible. Many would call it tough. Many would just call it plain old crazy. Yet, on October 3rd, 950 determined bicyclists proved these remarks otherwise. During the 18th annual Mount Diablo Challenge, even hand-pedaled bikes and unicycles completed this 10.8 mile course. The course consisted of racing to the top of Mt. Diablo. Starting at Athenian School at the base of the treacherous mountain, bike riders sped up and around the mountain. Then after regaining air, water, and a few spare bike parts, the riders raced back down the hill at speeds up to 45 miles per hour.

Myself, a member of RACES, along with several other volunteers, trained physicians, and radio operators ensured a pleasant ride up the 3,849 foot mountain. Proud to serve and be of assistance on locations scattered over Mt. Diablo were RACES members John Stuart-KM6QX, Mac McIntyre-KE6JGA, Greg Estep-KE6VTA, Drew Hanson-KD6GLY, Sam Watson-N6VIF, Pete Harris-KE6ZIW, Bill Kinsey-KF6HAY and John Schulze-KR6CR.



From left to right ... Aaron Matzkin, Sam Woosley, Terry Matzkin, Ed Ritchie, Russ Hockins.

Riding with the crowd on bicycles were the following ham operators: Don Marini-KF6HGO, Bob Green-KF6ROS, JC Smith-K0HPS, and Rich Holoch-KY6R. Serving as San Ramon Operations at the San Ramon Valley Fire Station #31, which was our ADEC South County, was Aaron Matzkin-KE6ZZS, Terry Matzkin-KE6WRE, Ed Ritchie-K6SFD, Sam Woosley-KR6AT, Bill Hockins-KB6EPG, and Russ Hockins-KA6FOY. The fire station facility provided the dispatch and focal point for the Amateur Radio Group, CAL Park Rangers, Search & Rescue, and San Ramon Fire District. It is important that all these operators be recognized for their time and effort that made the Mt. Diablo Challenge Ride a successful and safe ride. Thanks to all that helped.

Ready for the real shocker? The first bicyclist rode up Mt. Diablo in 47 minutes flat. Traveling at a speed of no slower than 30 miles an hour, Brian Miller made it back down the hill in 20 minutes. That's quicker than it takes most MDARC members to drive to their monthly meetings!



Aaron at the microphone

This event couldn't have taken place, without numerous disasters, if the crew of rangers, rescue workers, firefighters, and volunteers hadn't been there to help out. On the hill, in cooperation with the amateur radio team, were eight park ranger units, and one squad from the Redwood City High Rescue Team. Thanks to the San Ramon Valley Fire Department and their four teams, hurt participants were able to get the assistance they required in a short matter of time.

In case you didn't know, the RACES crew took this event as an opportunity to renew our Standardized Emergency Training (SET) credits. These credits allow RACES to formally be an emergency amateur radio team, and participate in training exercises to be prepared for disaster.

Thank you again to everyone who helped out to make the Mt. Diablo Challenge Ride a complete success!!

73, Aaron Matzkin

MDARC Board of Directors and Committees

Position	Who	How to find them
President	Greg Estep, KE6VTA	925-250-4743 (h) grestep@home.com
Vice President	Terry Matzkin, KE6WRE	925-820-5848 (h) myword@sprynet.com
Secretary	Paul Dickey, N6JOX	925-376-3971 (h) paulr3@judydickey.com
Treasurer	Marie Lewis, KF6GLV	925-933-0420 (h) mlewis1521@aol.com
Emergency Coordinator	Robert Hampton, KF6FGH	925-625-4033 (h)
Director at Large	John Stuart, KM6QX	925-283-2797 (h) jwstuart@earthlink.net
Director at Large	Ed Ritchie, K6SFD	925-837-3265 (h) erk6sfd@aol.com
Director at Large	Mike Patterson, KE6JGA	925-944-8786 (h) mapa@ieee.org
Director at Large	Tracey Schwartz, KE6TOT	kurtps@earthlink.net
Committees		
Auction	John Schulze, KR6CR	925-681-0552 (h) schulze2@ix.netcom.com
Carrier Editor	Wayne Merryman, WB6WZV	925-283-0659 (h) wmerryman@home.com
Door Prizes	John Schulze, KR6CR	925-681-0552 (h) schulze2@ix.netcom.com
Field Day	Lauren Styles, WA6CIE	925-676-2186 (h) lstyles@california.com
Membership	Sam Lipson, KO6JR	925-229-5705 (h) ko6jr@arrl.net
Public Service	Pete Harris, KE6ZIW	925-228-4503 (h) odyssey@ccnet.com
Refreshments	Mac McIntyre, KE6ZZG	925-825-9604 (h)
Social	George Roush, WB6OFH	925-687-0912 (h) groush@pacbell.net
VE Testing	John Ronan, K3ZJJ	510-649-9045 (h) k3zjj@aol.com
PACIFICON	Terry Matzkin, KE6WRE (Chair)	925-820-5848 (h) myword@sprynet.com

How to Research an Old License or Callsign

With the recent change of rules by the FCC, many amateurs are wondering, "How can I prove that I held a Technician or greater license before 1987?" QRZ has recently made available its oldest USA Callsign database from the March 1993 QRZ Ham Radio CDROM </search1993.html>. This collection contains the issue dates of many callsigns that go back into the mid 1980's and may be of use to those who are searching. Whether this will eventually be accepted as proof by the FCC or the VEC's remains to be seen. We wish that the answer was a simple one. If only there was a database of really old callsign information it could be so easy. It would certainly be nice to be able to look up the old callsigns and/or names and find out all about the history of a given callsign. Sadly, this isn't going to be possible any time soon. Here's why: Back in the early days of the FCC, from the beginning of radio and up until the 1980's, the Commission kept all of its records on paper. Computers did emerge at the FCC at some point during the 1980's however to the best of our knowledge, little of none of the previous information dating back to 1940's and 1950's was ever transcribed into computer readable format. For perhaps ten years or so after the FCC started using computers the information that they had on their systems was not routinely released to the public. Finally, in the early 1990's, they started distributing their data on mainframe-style magnetic tape through an organization which was to emerge as the National Technical Information Service (now FedWorld.gov <<http://www.fedworld.gov>>). In 1992 one could purchase a copy of this mainframe tape containing all of the current US callsign information for about \$1000. Needless to say, not many copies were sold. QRZ started business around that time and was one of the precious few that actually purchased the government tapes. Our first version of the QRZ Ham Radio database was made on 1/4 inch magnetic tape (not CDROM) and sent out to about 100 people. Sadly, we no longer have a copy of the original 1992 data. QRZ's original goal was always to provide current and timely callsign information for USA amateurs and because of this we were never compelled to keep track of the changes from one year to the next. Our current database does not for example, contain the 1993 information - it contains the latest data instead. Since 1993, the FCC has changed their entire data distribution system at least twice and as a result it has never been easy to keep track of the current information, let alone the old data. In order to research callsigns which date back several years, the only record which exists are the old callbooks. Most unfortunately, these were not sorted by name but only by callsign. Therefore, if you're trying to find out

continued on page 7

MDARC membership report (March 2000):

Here is the first update to the Directory. These corrections go through 21 February 2000. Listed here are some new members, some late renewals and some corrections. Please welcome our new members. Also, please send any corrections to ko6jr@arrl.net or see the membership chair at the meetings or send the corrections to the PO Box. The next electronic update of the Directory will be out in April. Please let the membership chair know if you would like to receive your update that way. 73, Sam

Name, Call, License Class; Spouse Name & Call
Address, Phone numbers, e-mail

* = Rocky Ridge Supporter

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>* Anslow, John E., WA6DPJ (T+); Pat WB6AQQ
1639 Martindale Dr., Martinez, CA 94553 (h) 925-372-7777
Berry, Jim, KE6IZP (G);
166 Arends Dr, Danville, CA 94506 (h) 925-837-8926 (w) 925-738-5891
Berry, Joshua, KE6IZQ (T+);
166 Arends Dr, Danville, CA 94506 (h) 925-837-8926</p> <p>* Birnbaum, Dan, KD6AXT (E);
3 Olde Creek Place, Lafayette, CA 94549 (h) 925-945-6149 (w) 510-428-3540</p> <p>* Cathrow, Jeff, KF6GYM (T);
P.O. Box 374, Moraga, CA 94556 (w) 415-905-8829</p> <p>Collins, Dennis G., K6IFB (A); Kejka
2841 Kinney Dr., Walnut Creek, CA 94595 (h) 925-939-2006 (w) 510-486-7859</p> | <p>mrtzjohn@juno.com
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Renewal</p> |
|---|--|

continued on page 7

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Dixon, Peter, KB6RDN (N); Mildred KB6RDO 124 Cabana Dr, Napa, CA 94558 (h) 707-252-3496 (w) 415-924-5950 (fax) 707-252-3601	kb6rdn@aol.com Renewal
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* Liniger, Richard H., K6RHL (G); 232 Briar Dr, Martinez, CA 94553 (h) 925-370-1068 (w) 415-437-8046	rhliniger@yahoo.com New E-mail
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* Pascale, J.J., W6JJP (T+); 1316 Walnut Meadows Dr., Oakley, CA 94561 (h) 925-625-9356	Call Sign Error
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* Rothbart, Ricky, KF6VSH (T); Judy 51 Creekside Dr, San Rafael, CA 94903 (h) 415-479-7286	rickstuff@hotmail.com New Member
* VanBuskirk, Gilbert A., Sr.(Gil or Van), KF6CWU (T); Dorothy 1659 Agadir St, Concord, CA 94518 (h) 925-682-1423	Renewal
* Vanerstrom, Gary S., N6MDV (G); 1630 King Ave, Napa, CA 94559 (h) 707-255-1988	vanhender@worldnet.att.net Renewal
* Wright, William C., III(Bill), KA0CZW (T+); 456 Oak Road #104, Walnut Creek, CA 94596 (h) 925-937-8219 (w) 925-926-3557 (fax) 925-937-1853	william.c.wright@kp.org New Member

How to Research an Old License or Callsign (continued from page 5)

what callsign a person held in say, 1950, you're practically out of luck. To summarize, your best bet at finding old callsign information is to first remember the old callsign and then try and find a callbook dating to the period of interest. We hope that someday technology will permit us to somehow scan these large documents and convert them to computer readable ASCII data but until then, QRZ wishes you good luck in your search.

Calendar of events

02/07/2000	7:30PM	MDARC	Board Meeting	Emil Villas in Concord
02/18/2000	7:30PM	MDARC	General Meeting	
02/19/2000	8:00 AM	PACIFICON	General Meeting	Emil Villas in Concord
03/06/2000	7:30PM	MDARC	Board Meeting	Emil Villas in Concord
03/17/2000	7:30PM	MDARC	General Meeting	
03/18/2000	8:00 AM	PACIFICON	General Meeting	Emil Villas in Concord
04/03/2000	10:00 AM	CARRIER	Goes to Press	

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